Governmental Advisory Committee

Denise Ferguson-Southard *Chair*

Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment. Former Director of the Air and Waste Management Division, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Previously served as Chief Counsel, Maryland Department of the Environment and as principal advisor to the Maryland Secretary of the Environment and the State Attorney General on all major environmental laws. Also was Assistant Enforcement Counsel in EPA's Office of Enforcement, Superfund Division. Member of the International Subcommittee of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee.

Carolyn Allen

Arizona State Representative. She is Chair of the House Environment Committee and is on the Government Operations and Health Committees. She is a member of the advisory boards for the Desert Foothills Land Trust, the McDowell Park Association, and the Scottsdale Foundation for the Handicapped. She has served as Vice-Chairman of the Scottsdale Planning Commission and is a member of the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce Community and Legislative Development Committee.

Gilbert Grijalva

City Councilman and Executive Director for Neighborhood and Economic Development in Calexico, California. Executive Board Member of the National Congress of Community Economic Development.

James Matz

Former Commissioner in Cameron County, Texas. He is also founder and chair of Harlingen Proud and Valley Proud, volunteer community environmental action organizations promoting sustainable economic development, recycling, wildlife protection, and community beautification. He has served on numerous state and local civic bodies and advisory committees.

Melvin Moon, Jr.

Director of Natural Resources and Environment for the Quileute Tribe and a member of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Elizabeth Pyke

Director of Federal Relations for the Maryland Office of the Governor. Former Policy Director for Economic Development in the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations where she dealt with NAFTA and other U.S. - Mexico border issues, particularly in regard to water quality and wastewater infrastructure needs.

Ernesto Silva

City Manager of Mercedes, Texas since 1997. Between 1987-1997, assistant city manager and director of planning for Pharr, Texas, another border community. Manages city departments and programs and maintains Federal, state and local liaison for the community.

Richard Tobe

Associate Director - Program for the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. Commissioner of Erie County (NY) Department of Environment and Planning from 1998-2000 where he was responsible for planning and implementation of environmental, energy conservation and economic development projects, and information and technical assistance related to environmental compliance. Between 1975-1987, served in various staff positions with state assembly committees and members.